

## **Citizen feedback to the Charter Commission via email - FALL 2007**

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I know I am only one person, but I think one thing that should be changed in the city charter is limiting the term of mayor to 2 terms the same as the President of the United States. As long as the same person stays in office, no matter who it is, for 20 years nothing is going to change. In order for any city to move forward, it needs fresh people with fresh ideas to move the city forward.

Sandy Varcadipane

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Term Limits for municipal elections.

David Jordan

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## **IRV Gives Election Results ASAP**

It's not often that Memphis has the chance to be a trend setter, but one of the least understood proposals before the Memphis Charter Commission would give us just such a chance.

It's Instant Runoff Voting, a proposal submitted to the Commission by Shelby County Commissioner Steve Mulroy, whose solidly liberal credentials should allay concerns that IRV is a plot to give white voters more clout at the polls.

He'd be hard-pressed to have more graphic examples of the wisdom of IRV than this year's city elections. After all, it's likely that a number of City Council races will require costly runoff elections, where voters will back into selecting a winner rather than voting for their hopes and dreams for the future.

### **Eliminating Spoilers**

Sadly, there's no runoff for the Memphis mayor and Council super-districts, meaning that there's the real prospect that some elected officials – notably the mayor – will take office with more people voting against the winner than in favor of him or her.

For the sake of example, consider the race for District 6 Council race where yet another Ford progeny, Edmund Ford Jr., is running for the seat left open by his father in the wake of his federal indictment. His major opponents are Reginald Milton, Ed Vaughn, James Catchings and a few assorted others.

It's likely that no candidate will get a majority of the vote, and as a result, a follow-up runoff costing Memphis taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars will be held. There's also the prospect

that the turnout will be much smaller.

### **Cheaper And Immediate**

It could be different. It could be cheaper, more efficient and the results could be immediate.

That's the beauty of Instant Runoff Voting. Memphis voters would no longer have to vote twice to get a winner, because on election night, a majority winner would be proclaimed.

Here's how it works:

When voters go to the polls, they vote for candidates in order of their preference. They pick their first choice, their second choice, their third choice, and so on.

### **Simple Math**

If a candidate wins a majority, that person obviously is the winner. If there is no candidate with a majority, the rankings of the other candidates are used to declare a winner.

All ballots are recounted, and the candidate receiving the least number of first place votes is eliminated. The ballots are counted again, and voters who chose the eliminated candidate now have their votes counted for the second-ranked candidate. The weakest candidates are progressively eliminated and votes redistributed until a single candidate has a majority of the votes.

In this way, IRV offers the chance for better voter choice and wider voter participation in selecting the winner. According to proponents like Commissioner Mulroy, IRV allows voters to vote for their favorite candidate without the fear that they are helping to elect their least favorite candidate. Best of all, the ultimate winner actually has the real support of a majority of voters.

### **No Longer A Novelty**

For four years, San Francisco has been using IRV, and the response from the public has been highly supportive. Soon, Oakland and Minneapolis will add the instant runoff to its election process after voters overwhelmingly approved it at referendum.

North Carolina is beginning to use it in certain judicial races, and Arkansas, South Carolina and Louisiana use the ranked ballot for overseas and military voters. Meanwhile, Ireland uses it in its president's election, London in its mayor's election and Australia for its House of Representatives.

Support of IRV has also come from one of the most unexpected places – political parties. With instant runoffs, parties can choose to nominate multiple candidates without worrying about watering down their voter support.

### **More Than Saving Money**

Now, the liberal vote can be split between multiple candidates, allowing a conservative candidate to win. But IRV allows voters to rank all of their candidates so that if a district's dominant political philosophy does not fall victim to spoilers in the race who pull away enough votes from one major candidate to elect the other.

For example, in New Mexico, Green Party and Democratic Party candidates split liberal voters, allowing Republicans to be elected in districts in which they clearly are out of step.

Until Shelby County passes a vote-by-mail system, Instant Runoff Voting is the best idea to come along in years, because not only does it save significant public money, it has actually been credited with reducing negative campaigning. Because candidates aren't just campaigning for people's votes, but also for second and third rankings, which means that they are less likely to vilify opponents whose supporters can mean the difference between victory or defeat.

### **A Blow For Progressive Government**

No part of American society is more resistant to change than the public sector, but the Charter Commission has the opportunity to strike a blow for innovation in our election process. One Commission member says IRV is too complicated for Memphis voters, a pretty damning statement considering that all it does it require voters to rank candidates 1-2-3.

So far, some of the Memphis Charter Commission members seem a bit perplexed by IRV, and a couple have said that it's not easy to explain. Then again, neither is the electoral college.

Here's hoping that the Commissioner will give Instant Runoff Voting the serious consideration that it deserves. It would be good if Memphis could be known for its commitment to progressive policies for a change.

Steve Mulroy

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Please consider changes in the city charter to make individual city council seats with small community sized districts and no super districts. As a voter and citizen of Memphis I see this as vital if we are to have a \_representative, and responsive local government\_. As we saw in the last election, the only people who can win in a super district are big money, big name people, the local citizen leader has no chance. Please act to make a better Memphis.

Rev. Clifford A. Bahlinger

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### **CHARTER**

1. Timing of elections to coincide with national elections
2. Consistency in election runoff policy – either plurality or majority.
3. 13 districts

4. City Council: line item budget authority/ Budget oversight (see below)
5. City Council: \$50,000 (or some number) budgetary cap w/o approval

#### **CITY COUNCIL**

1. Payroll tax for non-resident employees
2. Wheel tax/city inspections for non-resident employees
3. Parks/tree tax for trails and trees (urban forester ?) (see article)
4. Budget Oversight. **A)** Other post-employment benefits.. unfunded liability at present is enormous – almost \$900 M, according to Mayor Goldsworthy.. **B)** Cook Convention Center, **C)** Network
5. City hires – rejustify positions – line item

#### **CITY AMENITIES**

1. **Parks planning**
2. Integrated trail system - <http://www.greatermemphisgreenline.org/advantages.htm>
3. Promenade - <http://www.thebestofecuador.com/malecon.htm>
4. Open HS gyms for afternoon use
5. City Services directory
6. Weekly fair (like Cooper-Young) downtown at city hall plaza

#### **CITY/MLG&W ISSUES**

1. **Promote energy efficiency, recycling, water conservation, and clean air**

#### **MLG&W ISSUES**

1. Return envelope in monthly bill when person has autopay not needed.
2. Utils cut off on death...

#### **CITY TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

- 1 **Bike paths are not considered transportation lanes** – therefore don't fall under TDOT funding or MPO planning.
2. Bike lanes ASAP
3. Bike racks on buses

#### **EDUCATION/PUBLIC HEALTH**

1. Cooperation among City, Neighborhood Assns, police, public health, and library for a single room public service center (pay bills, file complaints, etc..) – have one officer and one nurse per neighborhood
2. **Pre-K State funding through state lottery. (see article)**

#### **POLICE**

1. Hiring - two-year college requirement is unnecessary.
2. Hiring – city residency is unnecessary
3. G'Town example – strict enforcement of traffic laws

Bob Schreiber

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Dear Memphis City Charter Commission Members: In reviewing the Memphis municipal codes, I find that Article 1, Section 8-12-5 provides for the establishment of a citizens' Animal Shelter Advisory Board. I am writing to go on record that I hereby support the formation of a citizens' advisory board for the Animal Shelter. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Beth Strong

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I am writing to you today on behalf of the 4-legged population of our fair city, with specific reference to the Memphis Animal Services. This is a city service that is supported by our tax dollars, just as is the garbage collection, police protection, fire protection, and many others. The citizens of Memphis do not have a problem with these services, because they affect us directly and we can speak for ourselves. The Animal Services impact a population that cannot speak out for themselves; they depend on us, their keepers, to do that for them. "Dogs have given us their absolute all. We are the center of their universe; we are the focus of their love and faith and trust. They serve us in return for scraps. It is without a doubt the best deal man has ever made." These words were written by Roger Caras.

There are many animal rescue organizations throughout the tri-state area who are more than willing to "pull" animals from this facility, nurse them back to health if necessary, spay and/or neuter the animal and follow guidelines to insure the animals are placed in caring homes and not necessarily back in the abusive or neglectful atmosphere they were removed from. These groups are willing to foot these bills out of their own pockets, yet the Shelter often times refuses to allow them to have the animals. There is an adoption fee connected with each animal; these are supposed to be used to offset the vetting, food, care (what there is of it), etc of each animal. However, when these animals are euthanized, does that not deprive the city of those funds? Where is the income that is supposed to be used to offset the expenses incurred during the brief time the animal is housed there? The average income to the city to save one animal per year over a 7 year period of time is \$525.00; 100 per year would net the city \$52,500.00 in income; and the numbers continue to grow as the number of animals placed for adoption as opposed to being euthanized.

The rescue groups are willing to pay fees to be given the animal, as well, while incurring the medical expenses of each of the animals they take in. There was a program that once was in place, called the Pet Placement Partners. This program relieved the shelter of overcrowding, and generated income. This program WORKED; why is it so hard for the shelter to continue with it? Many rescue groups have been turned away rather than being allowed to retrieve the animals and take into their care. All rescue groups should be treated equally without playing favorites.

Why are animals euthanized when there is someone waiting in the intake area to adopt them? Why is the vet on duty more anxious to euthanize a dog with a slight runny nose as opposed to giving her a couple of doses of antibiotics and waiting for a couple of days to see if it clears up? In one particular instance, this is exactly what happened, and now the dog is happy to be in her new forever home because the adopter pushed the vet to do the right thing, instead of taking the easy way out of simply putting the dog down.

The animals should be fed when the shelter workers first report to work, as opposed to waiting

until 2:00 in the afternoon. They need to be fed and watered prior to the shelter opening to the public, so that this routine does not interfere with the possibility of them visiting with a prospective family.

All shelter workers need to be trained in the policies and procedures of the shelter and FOLLOW THEM ALWAYS! There is no consistency within the department. Additionally, those workers who suffer from dyslexia should not be placed in positions of dealing with the computer and cage numbers. Too many times, it has been documented that the incorrect cage numbers have been entered and the wrong dog has been euthanized.

The shelter hours are not conducive for families to visit and obtain a new member of the family. They need to extend their hours to later in the afternoon on Saturday and perhaps consider being open until 7:00 PM one night a week. There was an adoption event recently that netted in 5 animals from the shelter being presented and all 5 found new homes. Petco has expressed an interest to partner with Memphis Animal Services on a regular basis. IF YOU BRING THEM, THEY WILL BE ADOPTED!

The Shelter Advisory Board needs to be reinstated and maintained. This citizen populated Board would be able to provide much needed support to the quality improvement/assurance efforts. The general duties are spelled out in our City Charter; Chapter 8-12 under the Memphis Animal Shelter. Additionally, they would be able to ensure accountability outside the administration. With the conditions and state of affairs there, this is a much needed action, given the atmosphere of our leadership today. I feel very confident there are numerous qualified and truly dedicated citizens who would gladly serve on this board; to be the voice of the 4-legged Population of our fair city.

Norene Wolfe Logan

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I am a City of Memphis resident, a taxpayer and voter and I would like to see the Charter Commission include the following changes on the Fall 2008 citywide ballot for a 'yes' or 'no' vote on each of the items I list below. I wish each item to be voted on individually and each to stand on its own. I would appreciate your action to check these proposals, make sure that they are in the proper format and language and put them on the ballot for a citizen vote.

D. Smith Hays

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Ann Uhlhorn

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SUMMARY:

1. No Property Tax Increases Without Voter Approval
2. Online Access and Transparency for all Government Records
3. Eliminate City Council Conflicts with Municipal Boards and Commissions
4. No Sale of Memphis, Light, Gas and Water Without Voter Approval.  
Proportional Representation for MLGW Board.
5. Mayor and City Council Term Limits
6. Citizen Petitions to Amend Charter

No Property Tax Increases Without Voter Approval

WHEREAS, the willingness and ability of citizens to bear the burden of tax increases should always be considered.

Real property tax rates shall not exceed the maximum rate approved by the voters of the City of Memphis in a referendum.

Such referendum may be authorized by the City Council no more than once in each calendar year pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated Section 2-3-204.

The referendum shall read: 'The maximum real property tax rate for the City of Memphis shall be increased to:' followed by the rate.

Voters shall be provided the two choices of FOR and AGAINST.

The real property tax rates in effect as of October 4, 2007 shall be the maximum rates until after the first such referendum occurs.

Online Access and Transparency for All Government Records

WHEREAS, the citizens of Memphis recognize that openness and transparency in all government affairs is the best assurance of ethical conduct.

All financial information of the City of Memphis, the Memphis Light Gas and Water Division and all entities receiving taxpayer money from the City of Memphis shall be held to be subject to the Tennessee Open Records Laws.

All financial and related information shall be put on the internet within thirty days after becoming available to the City of Memphis and all related divisions for public access. This shall include but not be limited to job descriptions and requirements, personnel files (excepting information that federal laws require to be private), salaries, benefits, pension

information, contracts, requests for proposals (RFPs), responses to RFPs, winning and losing bids, reasons for selection of winning bids and all job postings, selections for job postings and reasons for selections.

#### Eliminate City Council Conflicts with Municipal Boards and Commissions

WHEREAS, the government of the City of Memphis has wide-ranging oversight and fiscal responsibilities related to independent citizen boards and commissions, and

WHEREAS, proposals from those boards and commissions are voted on by the Council of the City of Memphis.

No more than one serving current member of the Memphis City Council shall be eligible to serve on any one of the various boards, commissions or committees of boards or commissions for which the citizens of Memphis would otherwise be eligible to serve. Furthermore, the City Council member so designated to serve shall serve as an observer and shall have non-voting status during service on the board or commission. Any one City Council member may serve as a non-voting observer on more than one board or commission.

No Sale of Memphis, Light, Gas and Water Without Voter Approval.  
Proportional Representation for MLGW Board.

WHEREAS, the Memphis, Light, Gas and Water Division of City Government is a municipal utility that serves much of the metropolitan area, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Memphis wish to ensure the sustainable and balanced governance of the MLGW Division.

The Memphis Light, Gas & Water Division Board of Commissioners shall consist of nine (9) members appointed and approved as follows:

Four members shall be appointed by the Mayor of Memphis and approved by a majority vote of the Memphis City Council.

Two members shall be appointed by the Shelby County Mayor and approved by a majority vote of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners.

One member shall be appointed by the Mayor of Germantown Tennessee and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Aldermen of Germantown.

One member shall be appointed by the Mayor of Collierville Tennessee and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Aldermen of Collierville.

One member shall be appointed by the Mayor of Bartlett Tennessee and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Aldermen of Bartlett.

In addition it shall consist of such subordinate officers and employees as may be selected by said board of light, gas and water division.

The Memphis Light Gas & Water Division or any part of the Memphis Light Gas and Water Division shall not be sold without a voter referendum approved by a majority of the voters of Shelby County.



## Mayor and City Council Term Limits

WHEREAS, it is deemed to be in the best interest of the citizens of Memphis, the electoral process, the continuous revitalization of ideas in the government of the City of Memphis and continuity in the administration of City government.

No elected official, including the Mayor and any Member of the Council of the City of Memphis, shall serve more than two full consecutive or non-consecutive terms as defined in the Charter of the City of Memphis.

The seven (7) members elected from districts shall be elected the first Thursday following the first Tuesday in October, beginning October 2011, for four-year terms.

The six (6) members elected to multi-member districts 8 and 9 shall be elected to a special three-year term on the first Thursday following the first Tuesday in October 2011 and take office January 1, 2012. The next election for the six multi-member districts will be held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, beginning November 2014. This date shall automatically adjust to reflect any change in the date of federal elections to ensure that this election coincides with it. The elected members will take office January 1, 2015 and serve full four-year terms. All subsequent elections for the six multi-member districts will take place in four-year intervals.

## Citizen Petitions to Amend Charter

WHEREAS, it may be necessary for the citizens of the City of Memphis to propose amendments to the City Charter that are in the best interest of the citizens and which may not be promulgated by members of City Government.

Voters of the City may frame and proposed amendments to this charter. They may propose any such amendment by a petition addressed to the Council of the City and containing the full text of the proposed amendment. Any petition proposing a charter amendment must be filed with the City Clerk and must be signed by qualified voters of the county equal in number to at least 15 percent of the persons who are registered to vote in the City of Memphis. The clerk shall immediately deliver it to the county election commission. When such petitions have been determined sufficient, the county election commission shall submit same to the voters of the county in accordance with this section.

The county election commission shall submit to the voters of the county any charter amendment proposed and delivered to them in accordance with the provisions of this section. A petition for recall, referendum or initiative shall be filed at least sixty (60) days before a general municipal or county election may be held on the question contained in such petition. The question contained in a petition filed less than sixty (60) days before an upcoming general municipal or county election will be placed on the ballot of the following general municipal or county election.

The City shall provide notice of the election on the petitioned question(s) not less than twenty (20) days nor more than thirty (30) days before the day of the election.

Mercere Collins

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I am a City of Memphis resident, a taxpayer and voter and I would like to see the Charter Commission include the following changes on the Fall 2008 citywide ballot for a 'yes' or 'no' vote on each of the items I list below. I wish each item to be voted on individually and each to stand on its own. I would appreciate your action to check these proposals, make sure that they are in the proper format and language and put them on the ballot for a citizen vote.

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### No Sale of Memphis, Light, Gas and Water Without Voter Approval. Proportional Representation for MLGW Board.

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Robert K. Jones

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Please accept these changes to the Memphis City Charter.

- 1) Term limits for mayor & City Council
- 2) Voter approval if sale of MLGW is proposed
- 3) Voter approval for property taxes.
- 4) Easy access to City & government records.

Please include these on the 2008 ballot & a simple yes or no on each of the items.  
I am a Memphis citizen & property owner

Thomas Gossett

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I am a City of Memphis resident, a taxpayer and voter and I would like to see the Charter Commission include the following changes on the Fall 2008 citywide ballot for a 'yes' or 'no' vote on each of the items I list below. I wish each item to be voted on individually and each to stand on its own. I would appreciate your action to check these proposals, make sure that they are in the proper format and language and put them on the ballot for a citizen vote.

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Lisa M. Torrence

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The City shall provide notice of the election on the petitioned question(s) not less than twenty (20) days nor more than thirty (30) days before the day of the election.

Claire Saino

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I am a City of Memphis resident, a taxpayer and voter and I would like to see the Charter Commission include the following changes on the Fall 2008 citywide ballot for a 'yes' or 'no' vote on each of the items I list below. I wish each item to be voted on individually and each to stand on its own. I would appreciate your action to check these proposals, make sure that they are in the proper format and language and put them on the ballot for a citizen vote.

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Brad Allen

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The referendum shall read: 'The maximum real property tax rate for the City of Memphis shall be increased to:' followed by the rate.

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Caroline Bartusch

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Richard Stroud

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I implore you to lend an ear to the situation that is troubling MANY Memphis taxpayers regarding the Memphis Animal Shelter. There is currently no director and the operation of the shelter is out of control. This situation recurs with every change in leadership. Policies change like the weather. All decisions are made autonomously with no process of appeal or second opinion. Our shelter has the highest rate of euthanasia for a large city shelter in this country and adoption is an afterthought.

I have a collection of written accounts of several incidences where a citizen was either present or gave proper notice of intention to adopt an animal and the shelter still chose to euthanize those particular animals.

I believe that the most basic step in getting accountability, consistency and accurate statistical reporting in our shelter is reinstitution of the Shelter Advisory Board as provided in the Memphis City Charter.  
<http://municipalcodes.lexisnexus.com/codes/memphis/>

This needs to happen as soon as possible. The individuals need to come from a more diverse background than INSIDE the shelter, and have credentials in humane practice or animal welfare.



Lisa Trenthem

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S. Clay Smythe

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**Ham Smythe IV**

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### What Is IRV?

Instant Runoff Voting ("IRV") is an election system in which voters cast their preferences, ranking candidates "1," "2," "3," etc.

### Who Uses IRV?

IRV is used on the municipal, state, and national level in governments around the world, as well as by non-governmental organizations and corporations.

**Local and state governments in U.S. currently using IRV:**

- San Francisco
- Burlington, VT
- Takoma Park, MD
- Louisiana (for overseas absentee ballots)
- South Carolina (for overseas absentee ballots)
- Arkansas (for overseas absentee ballots)
- North Carolina (for overseas absentee ballots)
- Illinois (for overseas absentee ballots)
- Vermont (for overseas absentee ballots)

**Local governments in U.S. which have approved IRV and are now implementing it:**

- Minneapolis, MN
- Oakland, CA
- Sarasota, FL
- Hendersonville, NC
- Cary, NC
- Pierce County, WA
- Berkeley, CA
- Ferndale, MI
- 

**Local governments in U.S. which approved charter amendments which provide IRV as an option:**

- Vancouver, WA
- Santa Clara County, CA
- San Leandro, CA

**It is also used around the world. For example, it is used to elect the President of Ireland, the President of India, the national legislature of Australia, and the Mayor of London. Either IRV or a related form of “proportional voting” or “choice voting” is used at the national level in virtually every industrialized democracy in the world except for Britain and the U.S., where it has been absent for purely historical reasons (i.e., the election systems were set up before these alternative systems were invented).**

## How does IRV work?

The voter ranks his/her candidates in order of preference—“1,” “2,” “3,” etc. Voters can rank as many or as few candidates as they wish.

If any candidate gets a majority of the 1<sup>st</sup>-place votes, that candidate wins. If not, the candidate with the fewest 1<sup>st</sup>-place votes is eliminated. 1<sup>st</sup>-place votes for that candidate are then redistributed to the remaining candidates based on the 2<sup>nd</sup>-place votes.

If there is now a candidate with a majority, he/she wins. If not, the next lowest candidate is eliminated, the votes are redistributed as before. The process continues until some candidate gets a majority of the vote and is declared the winner.

With inexpensive, off-the-shelf computer programs, this counting process can be completed in a matter of hours for most cities.

## Why Use IRV?

\* If you are going to do runoffs anyway (like we do with City Council

districts), this is

+**quicker**

+**cheaper** (you pay for one election, not two) and

+**has better voter turnout** (because turnout always drops big-time in the second, 'runoff' election)

\***IRV solves the "spoiler problem."** It avoids outcomes in which a candidate disliked by the lion's share of voters squeaks by to victory.

\***IRV elects consensus candidates** with majority support and a broad base of support.

\***IRV encourages positive campaigning.** Candidates want to be the first choice of their base and the second choice of their opponents' base.

Negative campaigning which polarizes the electorate will not help them win.

\***IRV makes elections more competitive.** It gives lesser-known, lesser-funded candidates a chance. Voters who might otherwise not vote for such a candidate for fear of "throwing away their vote" can vote for the "little guy" for first-place, but go with a more established candidate for second-place, without fear of throwing the election to a candidate they really detest. (E.g., you can vote for Nader without helping Bush.)

\*Because it makes elections more competitive, **it helps increase voter turnout.**

Steve Mulroy

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I am requesting that the Memphis Animal Shelter Advisory Board not only remain in the Memphis Charter, but be enforced so that the atrocities happening at MAS stop as soon as possible. If this is a part of our city Charter, it should not be ignored.

Angela Michaels

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5. Mayor and City Council Term Limits
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Jim McCullough

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The opportunity to improve city government is at hand . Thanks to your willingness to serve, the voters will be heard and the Memphis Charter revisions will reflect their concerns.

Each of you are to be commended for your efforts to bring better government to the city.

John C. Lunt

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Virginia Mclean

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Cathy Marcinko

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Chris Morton

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Frances Fields

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Jack Tucker

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Roberta K. Gobboney

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Paul Rubin

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Lisa Snowden

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Jacquelyn Nerren

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2. Online Access and Transparency for all Government Records
3. Eliminate City Council Conflicts with Municipal Boards and Commissions
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Dixie Fletcher

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I would like to see Memphis Return to the glory enjoyed 25 to 50 years ago Safe streets, Traffic control, Civic pride, Beautiful parks , Top nationally acclaimed schools in Hamilton Central and East. The best fire department and police Departments. the nation. Safe streets 24 hours per day, A city attractive to industry and corporations like Exxon( ESSO) Sorry folks. I think we have lost it and losing more every day. Please Give considerations to these proposals

#### **No Property Tax Increases Without Voter Approval**

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In addition it shall consist of such subordinate officers and employees as may be selected by said board of light, gas and water commission.

The Memphis Light Gas & Water Division or any part of the Memphis Light Gas and Water Division shall not be sold without a voter referendum approved by a majority of the voters of Shelby County.

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SAM Tickle.MD

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Valerie Langley

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Summary List of Possible Changes to the City Charter:

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2. Online Access and Transparency for all Government Records
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Jane Routh

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Edwina Hackett

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I have been advised that you have been contacted by several members of my community regarding specific changes in the Charter. I support some of those proposals and urge their consideration. Specifically, I'm in favor of:

1. Each change which you implement being voted on separately by the voters, as opposed to all collectively being voted on as one item.
2. Term limits for the mayor and councilpersons.
3. A referendum for any proposed sale of MLG&W.
4. Proportionate representation for MLG&W Board members.
5. Establishing a mechanism for petitions to amend the charter by citizens.
6. Establishing full access to public records, including access by internet.
7. Eliminating conflicts by ending councilmembers service on other municipal boards and commissions.

Larry H. Nance

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No elected official, including the Mayor and any Member of the Council of the City of Memphis, shall serve more than two full consecutive or non-consecutive terms as defined in the Charter of the City of Memphis.

The seven (7) members elected from districts shall be elected the first Thursday following the first Tuesday in October, beginning October 2011, for four-year terms.

The six (6) members elected to multi-member districts 8 and 9 shall be elected to a special three-year term on the first Thursday following the first Tuesday in October 2011 and take office January 1, 2012. The next election for the six multi-member districts will be held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, beginning November 2014. This date shall automatically adjust to reflect any change in the date of federal elections to ensure that this election coincides with it. The elected members will take office January 1, 2015 and serve full four-year terms. All subsequent elections for the six multi-member districts will take place in four-year intervals.

#### Citizen Petitions to Amend Charter

WHEREAS, it may be necessary for the citizens of the City of Memphis to propose amendments to the City Charter that are in the best interest of the citizens and which may not be promulgated by members of City Government.

Voters of the City may frame and proposed amendments to this charter. They may propose any such amendment by a petition addressed to the Council of the City and containing the full text of the proposed amendment. Any petition proposing a charter amendment must be filed with the City Clerk and must be signed by qualified voters of the county equal in number to at least 15 percent of the persons who are registered to vote in the City of Memphis. The clerk shall immediately deliver it to the county election commission. When such petitions have been determined sufficient, the county election commission shall submit same to the voters of the county in accordance with this section.

The county election commission shall submit to the voters of the county any charter amendment

proposed and delivered to them in accordance with the provisions of this section. A petition for recall, referendum or initiative shall be filed at least sixty (60) days before a general municipal or county election may be held on the question contained in such petition. The question contained in a petition filed less than sixty (60) days before an upcoming general municipal or county election will be placed on the ballot of the following general municipal or county election.

The City shall provide notice of the election on the petitioned question(s) not less than twenty (20) days nor more than thirty (30) days before the day of the election.

J. Kirby

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Our animals in the Memphis Shelter need the Shelter Advisory Board at this time more than ever to help save many animals that are being euthanized prematurely. Many could be saved and adopted out to wanting loving families.

So as a recent member of the Memphis Animal Coalition, I would like to request that the Charter not only leave the Shelter Advisory Board in the Charter. And I would like to request that the board be enforced allowing the board to assist in the needs of Animal Services thus, giving support to the citizens of Memphis, both human and animal.

Julie Russnogle